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EDITORIALS*

IMPORTANT ACTION TAKEN BY THE C. M. A. HOUSE OF DELEGATES AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON MARCH 2-3

Action Taken by House May Mean Radical Changes in Practice in California.—At the special session of the House of Delegates held at Los Angeles on Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3, policies were adopted which, should they be enacted into law by the California legislature, now in session, might radically change the form of medical practice in the Golden State. The House of Delegates at last year's annual session of the Association at Riverside authorized a medical economic survey of California, and recommended a special session of the House to consider the report of the survey committee, otherwise known as the Committee of Five. The Council issued the call for this meeting and designated the dates, as above, and the place as the headquarters building of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

*Editor's Note.—Copy for the March issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, inclusive of all editorials except the first on "Important Action Taken by the California Medical Association House of Delegates, at the Special Session, March 2 and 3," was sent to the printer on or before February 20, at least some ten days prior to the special session.

The Members of the House of Delegates Were Alert to Their Responsibilities.—We remember not a single meeting of the House of Delegates during the last twenty-five years, in which the presentation of viewpoints by delegates was made in such earnest, clarifying and courteous manner. Radical differences of opinion on the subject of sickness insurance were clearly in evidence from the first call to order, but all who spoke did so without the injection of personalities, the delegates listening with marked attention for one whole day before proceeding to vote on the different resolutions. All present seemed imbued with the tremendous seriousness and importance of the work before them, and of the heavy obligations they assumed for their five thousand fellows of the California Medical Association, on whose behalf and in whose name they were acting.

* * *

The Resolution Incorporating Major Recommendations.—The resolution incorporating the major issues under special discussion was introduced by Dr. Irving Ingber of San Francisco and appears on page 187 of this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, where it will be noted that the House of Delegates laid down certain principles to be included in any proposed sickness insurance legislation, designed to protect medical practice and standards. The responsibility of presenting the viewpoints of the Association to the Senate Interim Committee (Senator Dan E. Williams of Jamestown, chairman; Senator Edward H. Tickle of Carmel and Senator Leonard Joseph Difani of Riverside), was given over to a new committee of six members, consisting of the standing Committee on Public Policy and Legislation (Dr. Junius B. Harris, chairman, of Sacramento, Dr. Fred R. DeLappe of Modesto and Dr. E. T. Remmen of Glendale), and three additional members of the Association to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. Speaker Pallette later announced that he had so named Doctors Walter B. Coffey, T. Henshaw Kelly and Joseph Catton, all of San Francisco.

Before announcing the above appointments, Speaker Pallette received and gave careful consideration to many written and oral communications, and the committee as finally announced by him on March 9 was suggested by several of the strongest proponents of the Ingber resolution. It was pointed out that the committee should not only include members who had been much in favor of the action taken by the House of Delegates, but physicians whose affiliations at Sacramento would be of value in promoting the passage of legislation agreed upon, and who lived sufficiently near the Capital to make conferences possible and convenient.

It was also decided to appoint an advisory group to the Committee of Six whose members would be kept in touch with the work in hand, and who could be called upon for active aid, as required. On this advisory committee, up to the time this copy is sent to the printer, are the following:

Rodney A. Yoell,* San Francisco; Clarence G. Toland, Los Angeles; Harry H. Wilson, Los Angeles; Robert A. Peers, Colfax; Dewey R. Powell, Stockton; Irving S. Ingber, San Francisco; R. Langley Porter, San Francisco; Loren R. Chandler, San Francisco; Frederick N. Scatena, Sacramento; LeRoy Brooks, San Francisco; Louis Albert Packard, Bakersfield; Henry Dietrich, Los Angeles; John Hunt Shephard, San Jose; A. J. Scott, Jr., Los Angeles; W. W. Roblee, Riverside; Lyell C. Kinney, San Diego; John H. Graves, San Francisco; and George Dawson, Napa.

* * *

Preliminary Reports of the Committee of Five.—The Committee of Five, appointed after last year's Riverside Annual Session and consisting of Doctors William R. Molony, chairman, Los Angeles, Harry H. Wilson, secretary, Los Angeles, Alson R. Kilgore, San Francisco, Robert A. Peers, Colfax, and Rodney A. Yoell of San Francisco, brought in two preliminary reports, copies of which were sent in February to all delegates and component county societies. Much work is still to be done before the final report of the Committee of Five is completed, but it is hoped that it may be finished in time for consideration at the Yosemite Annual Session on May 13-16. In this issue we are printing, on page 160, for the information of members of the Association, some excerpts from the First Preliminary Report. This report was submitted to the Committee of Five by its Survey Staff (Paul A. Dodd, Ph. D., director).

* * *

Minutes of the Special Session Should be Read by Every C. M. A. Member.—A perusal of the minutes of the special session of the House of Delegates, to be found on page 194, will reveal that the die has been cast. Prior to voting on the resolutions, the delegates virtually agreed that, regardless of personal beliefs, Association members should work as a unit, to attain the objectives adopted. Every member of the California Medical Association, therefore, should read carefully the digest of proceedings printed in this issue, because a clear understanding of what has been proposed, as the best solution at hand on the medical economic problems confronting the profession, is of the utmost importance. The Council voted that the March issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE should be delivered to its readers two weeks later than its regular date of mailing, so that every member of the Association might be able to better visualize what had been done and is now before us.

* * *

Session Remarkable for Its Kindly Atmosphere.—In bringing these comments to a close, the thought may be expressed that the headquarters building of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, with its quiet and restful atmosphere, was a real factor in promoting the amenities of courteous interchange of thought and fellowship

* Doctor Yoell who, on the Committee of Five, was most active in advocacy of the plan incorporated in the Ingber resolution, had declined membership on the Committee of Six, expressing himself, however, as being willing to serve on the advisory committee.

that were so much in evidence throughout the two-day session, as has been happily expressed in a resolution.

In conclusion, it is to be hoped that delegates from the county societies may use the reports* in this issue as a basis for general discussion at early meetings of their respective groups.

A. M. A. HOUSE OF DELEGATES AND HEALTH INSURANCE

The American Medical Association Special Session Report Is Printed in This Issue.—On page 207 of this number of the official journal appears the complete report of the Reference Committee of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, as submitted at the special session which was held at Chicago on February 15 and 16.

As is well known, the American Medical Association House of Delegates is composed of representatives from each of the constituent state associations; the apportionment rules permitting, for example, the five thousand members of the California Medical Association to have seven delegates. In every particular, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association may be stated to be composed of a group of physicians who are truly representative of the more than one hundred thousand medical men making up the membership of the national organization.

The House of Delegates was in special session for two full days, the business to be transacted being

"limited to the consideration of the social and economic policies of the Association, as related to pending and proposed legislation, to sickness insurance and to other matters which may be submitted by the Board of Trustees."

* * *

The American Medical Association Report Should Be Read by Every California Medical Association Member.—The report of the Reference Committee was given by its chairman, Dr. Harry H. Wilson of Los Angeles, and is a pronouncement worthy of the careful thought and consideration of every member of the California Medical Association. Each of our representatives who went to the Chicago meeting put aside his personal professional work for more than a week in order, as a delegate from the California Medical Association, to render his bit of service to his fellows. Every other member of the California Medical Association should also do his bit by at least acquainting himself with the conclusions finally arrived at by our national body.

* * *

Special Session of the California Medical Association House of Delegates.†—The House of Delegates of our own State Association will meet

*Excerpts from the California survey, as given in the Preliminary Report, appear on page 160; resolutions of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association on page 207; and minutes and resolutions of the special session of the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association, on pages 187 and 194.

†The call of the special session of the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association was printed on page 126 of the February issue. As previously stated, the March issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is brought off the press two weeks later than its regular mailing date to permit inclusion of the minutes of the special session of the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association.